MONTHLY JOURNAL OF
THE MUSHROOM GROWERS'
ASSOCIATION

MGA BULLETIN

JANUARY, 1959 · NUMBER 109

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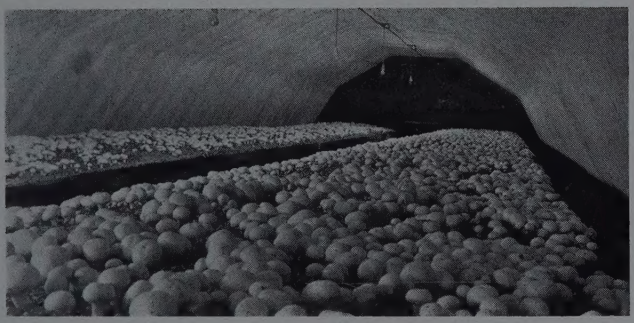

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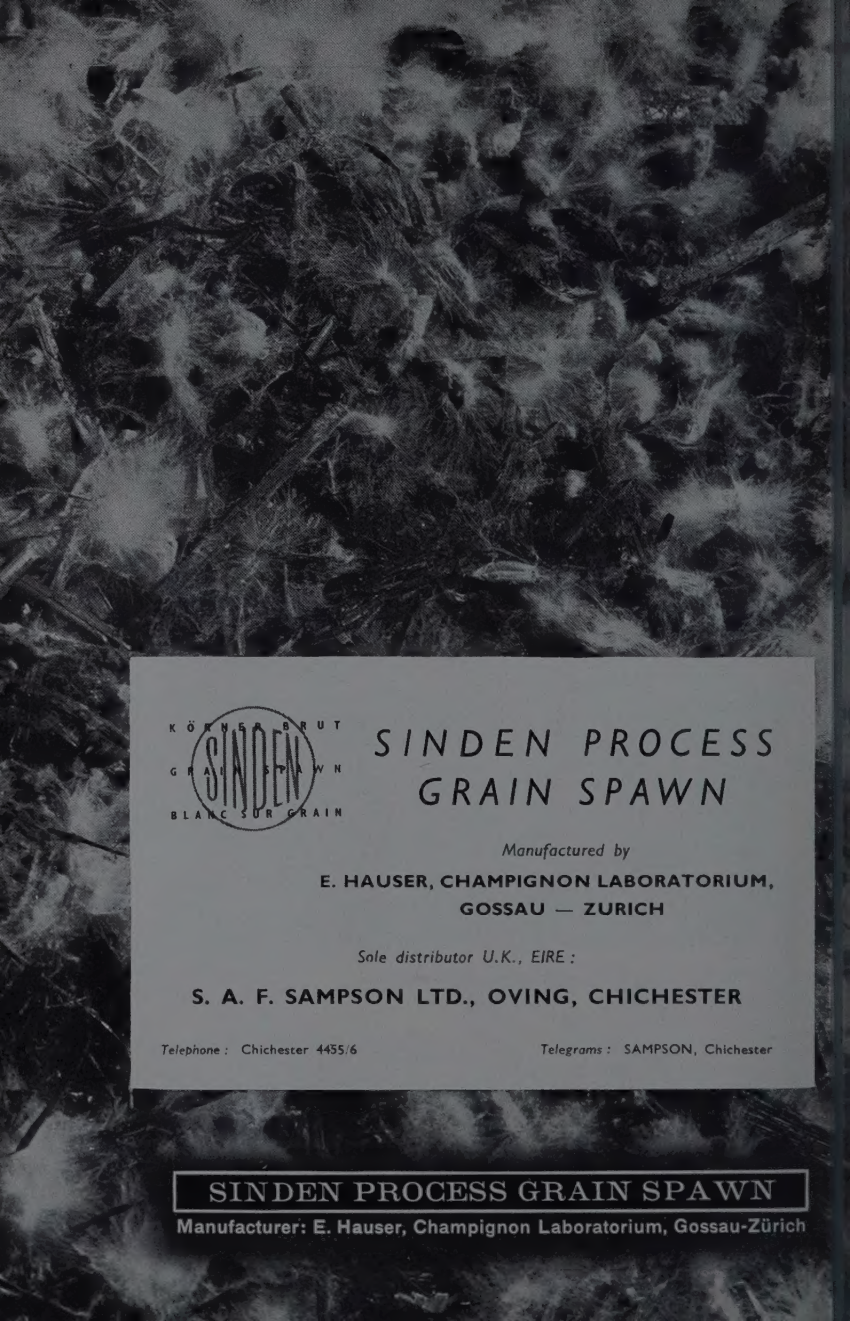

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The
MGA BULLETIN

JAN. - 1959
NUMBER 109

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No responsibility can be accepted by the Editor, the Editorial Board, or the Mushroom Growers' Association for statements made or views expressed in this Bulletin, or for any advertisements included in this publication.

EDITORIAL

GROWING UP

The Mushroom Industry is growing up and, hand in hand with that process, the Mushroom Growers' Association is growing in stature and importance. That is a good thing and is as it should be.

From 1946 onwards, the year of the formation of this Association by a few far-sighted individuals, the industry as a whole has forged steadily ahead.

It is true enough that in some official quarters the industry is still looked upon as the Cinderella of the horticultural world and officialdom, like a falling circulation with a newspaper, takes a great deal of effort to change, but there is every sign that the mushroom industry is now being accorded the recognition it has rightly earned.

It would seem then that the time has arrived for this Association to stand on its own feet, to fight boldly for what it believes to be right and what it believes to be fair and, further, what it believes to be in the interests of the mushroom growers as a whole.

It seems quite likely that, within the coming months, some decisions will be taken which may, perhaps, be described as revolutionary, but with loyalty and unity always such a strong point about MGA members —and what absolutely priceless assets are loyalty and unity—the Association can and should go ahead, should press on with the greatest determination with any measure calculated to benefit the members.

There is always difficulty in sorting the wheat from the chaff and in establishing a clear sighted but simple view of what one seeks to achieve and the best method of bringing that about. With the MGA the objects are clear and distinct:—(1) to grow more mushrooms from a given area (2) to produce mushrooms more cheaply and (3) to sell them to as wide a market as possible and as quickly as possible. Little progress has been made with (1) and disappointment and frustration abound although there are one or two growers achieving 12 lb. per sq. ft. per year. With regard to (2) there has unquestionably been progress and in this field the progress, in the coming year, may well be most marked. It is however (3) that offers the widest scope and, given the right support, 1959 may provide a spectacular advance on this particular front.

WRA

KEEP IN TOUCH WITH RESEARCH

suggests

F. W. TOOVEY

Director, Glasshouse Crops Research Institute, Littlehampton

Your Editor has very kindly given me this opportunity of telling you about our Subscription Scheme, which has been drawn up to enable growers and others interested to keep in touch with the work in progress at the Glasshouse Crops Research Institute at Littlehampton. As you all know, this Institute has absorbed the work formerly undertaken by the Mushroom Research Association at Yaxley and has become the national centre for mushroom research.

Your Research Sub-Committee has been constantly exercised by the problem of liason with the Institute and, in particular, of how growers may be kept informed of developments in the research field. Our mushroom research workers have many contacts with growers and have often described their work in articles in this Bulletin or in talks at the Association's annual conferences or on other occasions. This year we held a well-attended special demonstration for mushroom growers immediately after our annual Open Day, and I think this must have given those who came a very good picture of what is going on. The Institute's field of work covers many crops, however, and I am sure it will be appreciated that we cannot always arrange special days for any one section of the industry we serve. We must normally expect growers and others interested to come along on that day, our annual Open Day, which is specially set apart for demonstrating our work.

The formal record of the Institute's work is given in our Annual Report. The first, that for 1954-1955, contained only brief reference to work on mushrooms, as the Yaxley staff had only just taken up their duties at the Institute. The 1956 report, however, contains full accounts of the work carried out during that year on mushroom diseases and pests and on certain aspects of the casing layer in relation to fruiting of the cultivated mushroom. The 1957 report will be published about the end of the year, and will contain a similar range of papers dealing, among other things, with the interesting experiments done by Mr. Flegg on the function of the casing layer and on the role of soluble salts in this layer and in the compost, with Miss Gandy's studies on those current disorders of mushrooms which are of so much concern to all of you, and with Dr. Hussey's and Mr. Wyatt's work on Cecids, Phorids and Sciarids among the mushroom pests.

Participation in the Institute's Subscription Scheme gives growers and others interested the privilege of attending the annual Open Day and of receiving the Institute's Annual Report. After meeting the cost of these privileges the payments made provide a small balance which can be used to meet expenditure not covered by the Treasury grant made each year for the normal running of the Institute. In this way those subscribing may feel they are supporting and fostering the Institute's work. The balance from the Subscription Scheme is credited

to a General Purposes Fund which is administered by the Institute's Governing Body. The Governing Body includes representatives of the growing industry, and of the fields of science related to horticulture, six members being leading growers and six eminent scientists.

The present minimum rates of subscription are as follows:—

(i) For firms or companies	£5 5s. 0d. per annum
(ii) For growers working on their own account or for other individuals interested	£2 2s. 0d. per annum
(iii) For workers employed on nurseries or holdings, whether or not their employers are subscribers, and for students	12s. 6d. per annum
(iv) For those domiciled overseas who cannot enjoy the full privileges of those subscribing at the higher rates	12s. 6d. per annum

Subscribers at the five guinea rate are entitled to receive two copies of the Annual Report, while all other subscribers receive one copy. The Report sent will normally be that for the year preceding that to which the subscription relates; thus a subscriber for 1959 will receive the Annual Report for 1958 as soon as it is published.

As already mentioned, Subscribers also have the privilege of visiting the Institute on the annual Open Day. Occasional visits at other times can be made by special arrangement with the Director, but in order not to disrupt the work of the Institute too much these visits must be kept to a minimum. The Open Day is usually held in the summer, and as so many of our visitors come from a long distance and there are no suitable facilities nearby, free catering, on a modest scale, is normally provided.

It should also be mentioned that the Inland Revenue authorities usually allow subscriptions to an approved research or educational establishment to be charged as a business expense for tax purposes.

The scheme year runs from 1st January to 31st December, and subscriptions are renewable on 1st January each year. For enrolment during a year the full rate is payable up to the date of the Open Day, and at half rate thereafter. The 12/6d. rate is payable in full at any time.

With this explanation of the objects of our Subscription Scheme and the rules governing it, I hope many mushroom growers will feel encouraged to participate in it and so join those many other growers who are already associating themselves with the Institute's work in this way. We shall be very grateful to them for their support and interest, and shall look forward to meeting them on Open Days.

Footnote:—

The MGA Executive urges members to support the Littlehampton Scheme. An enrolment form is enclosed herewith.

OFF TO SWITZERLAND

Major A. L. A. Dredge of Coombe Bank Market Gardens, Sundridge, Sevenoaks, Kent, will be at Champery, Valais, Geneva, from 21st February to 14th March, representing the Ski Club of Great Britain.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTIONS-1959

In pursuance of a decision taken at the last Annual General Meeting of the Mushroom Growers' Association, voting for all five vacancies on the Executive Committee will be by postal vote. Of the five vacancies, **two concern general seats and three area seats.**

General Seats. Nominations for the **two vacancies** must be received, by the MGA Secretary **not later than** 24**th February**, on the forms to be provided. Before making nominations members should, as far as possible, ascertain if those nominated are willing to stand.

The two members retiring from the General Seats are:—Mr. J. A. Linfield and Mr. G. V. Allen. Mr. Allen has now completed six consecutive years on the Committee and is therefore not eligible for re-election this year.

Area Seats. There are three Area Seat vacancies and the areas concerned are D E and G (see Bulletin No. 87, Page 99) Members in the areas concerned will be notified, by letter, of the procedure to be followed, and such notification will be received on or before 27th January, 1959. **A member nominated for any area seat must reside in the area concerned and must be nominated by a member from that area.** The three members retiring from Area Seats are:—

Area D: A. A. Spencer, who offers himself for re-election.

Area E: F. Bleazard, who has now completed six consecutive years on the Committee and is therefore not eligible for re-election this year.

Area G: A. Campbell-Melville, who does not wish to stand for re-election.

NOTE: A full list of members of the present Committee appears above the Editorial on page 5.

It is most important that all members should realise that only United Kingdom Grower Members (those not appearing in italics in the December Bulletin No. 108) may nominate, be nominated and may vote. This ruling applies to General and Area Executive Committee seats.

A member not successful in an Area Election may be nominated for a General Seat election.

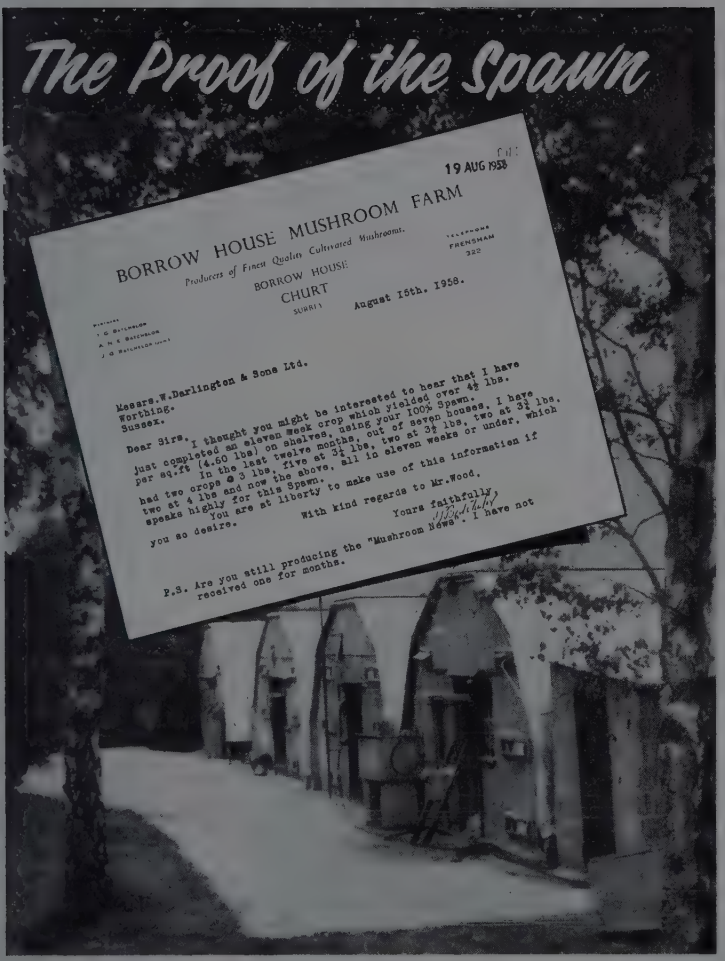
WELL! WHAT A COINCIDENCE!

Fred. Atkins writes:—

The poet, F.P., is a stranger to me, under those initials at any rate, but his December Calypso was most kind.

Those who know me will be amused by the coincidence that the *Bulletin* arrived with the police, following a burglary at my office. My steel desk had been twisted and wrenched apart, with its paper-filled drawers all cruelly tipped into a corner. At that rueful moment, at any rate, I was scarcely able to appreciate the line " renowned for things alphabetically filed " . . . . . .

The Proof of the Spawn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you so desire.
With kind regards to Mr.Wood,
Yours faithfully
P.S. Are you still producing the "Mushroom News". I have not
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LAST MONTH'S PUBLICITY CONTRIBUTIONS

A fine fillip to the MGA Publicity Fund was provided last month by the direct activity of Messrs. J. B. & F. W. Young Ltd., of Coleraine, N. Ireland, who directly canvassed a number of salesmen handling their mushrooms. As a result, over £50 was added to the fund.

***Spawn Merchants:—**

†Monlough Food Production Co. Ltd., Ballygowan, Belfast.
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G. W. Jackson (Cardiff) Ltd., 11 Custom House Street, Cardiff ..	10	10	0
†C. Snowdon & Co. Ltd., Castlefolds Market, Sheffield	3	4	6
E. Broadbelt Ltd., Smithfield Market, Manchester	15	15	0
Dan Wuille Ltd., 79 Candleriggs, Glasgow C.1..	25	0	0
Sundriesmen:—			
Bradford Fertilizer Co. Ltd., Whitefield Place, Girlington, Bradford	10	10	0

*Amounts collected by Spawn Merchants are not for publication.

†Previous contributions already acknowledged.

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J. Brook, Scatcherd Park Avenue, Morley, Leeds.

GCRI TO UNDERTAKE SPAWN RESEARCH

The Glasshouse Crops Research Institute is advertising for a microbiological geneticist to undertake research on mushroom spawn and breeding for disease resistance in higher plants. It is hoped that the work on mushroom spawn will lead to the improvement of strains, and it is intended that it should also include a study of spawn characteristics in their possible relation to current cropping disorders.

NEW PUBLICITY RECIPE LEAFLET

Enclosed with this *Bulletin* is a copy of a new recipe leaflet, specially designed by the Publicity Committee for circulation amongst teachers of domestic science. It is hoped too that, in addition to the usual educational establishments the leaflet will also achieve a high circulation with Women's Institutes, etc. The publication of this recipe leaflet coincides with an advertising campaign in " Home Economics ", a publication which appeals particularly to domestic science teachers. Included in this campaign is an offer to loan the film taken by Esso petroleum at the Oxted farm of the Broadham Produce Co., to schools, evening classes, Women's Institutes and the full range of the various educational establishments in the field of cookery. Cost to members—£4 10s. per 1,000.

WORLD'S PRESS DIGEST

A serious shortage of horticultural **peat** has been caused by the wet summer. The German peat bogs have been flooded and they already drawing upon their winter stocks. *Grower*, Nov. 29/58.

Mushrooms are being produced in fair quantity in **Oxfordshire.** Little difficulty has occurred with the solid strawed wheats in composting. Perhaps the slightly longer peak heating may be something to do with it.
Grower correspondent, Nov. 29/58.

The visit of **Dr. Leon Kneebone** of Pennsylvania State University to this country has been one of the most outstanding events in the mushroom world for several years. The Mushroom Growers' Association are to be congratulated upon their initiative in arranging a trip that can do nothing but good to the mushroom industry as a whole.
Darlington's *Mushroom News*, Oct./58.

The difficulty of obtaining horse manure is forcing mushroom growers to go on to the MRA Formula of composting wheat straw. This shortage of stable manure will obviously get worse.
Grower correspondent, Nov. 29/58.

It will probably be at least five years before you can buy food preserved by **irradiation,** in the same way as you now buy frozen meat, prepacked fruit or vegetables. This is one of the main conclusions that can be drawn from the meeting, organised by the Food and Agricultural Organisation, which was held at Harwell last week.
Peter Collins in *Sunday Times*, Nov. 23/58.

In some types of **soil** in the United States it was possible to grow up to four crops of mushrooms a year, Blackpool South Rotary Club was told at their luncheon meeting yesterday by Mr. Frank Bleazard, Chairman of the Mushroom Growers' Association of Great Britain, who showed a film on commercial mushroom growing in U.S.A.
West Lancs. *Evening Gazette*, Nov. 4/58.

Exceptionally compact design is a feature of Plumett **glandless heating accelerators,** now being made in this country by Precision Electrical Products (Stockport) Ltd., Progress Works, Cale Green, Stockport. Stated to be some 30 to 40% smaller than usual, these circulators for central heating systems are readily blended into the pipewash and can be installed in new or existing systems without modifications or special supports. They are available for branch connections from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 in. at prices from £26.
Industrial Equipment News, Mid-November, 1958.

High-velocity **air conditioning** equipment about to be made under licence from the American Connor Engineering Corporation includes air diffusers, filters and filter panels. The Kno-draft Series 45 valve attenuators are claimed to represent a new departure in dual duct design. Dorex conservation equipment employs activated carbon filters for purifying re-circulated air. This announcement is made by the Ozonair Engineering Co. Ltd., The Esplanade, Rochester, Kent.
Industrial Equipment News, Mid-November, 1958.

YOU CAN RELY ON—

MOUNT SPAWN

The Grower of this crop says—

The first flush yielded ·96 lbs. per sq. ft., all picked within three days, and the second ·57 lbs. per sq. ft. The total of the two flushes was picked within fourteen days and the yield was 1·53 lbs. per sq. ft.

We use only synthetic composts here and these are prepared from wheat straw, activated with a MRA formula which you supply. The composting is done with the aid of a Hawkomatic Compost Maker, and with this machine we are able to control exactly the amount of water introduced and also to ensure a very even spread of activator on the straw. We believe both factors to be of great importance in the preparation of the compost.

We grow on shelf beds and have so far used Mount Spawn in all our crops but one. Another example of a recent good crop was 2·75 lbs. per sq. ft. in ten weeks.

Extract of recent letter received.

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A vast field for future work might be the improvement of the nutritive value of mushrooms by **genetic selection of spawn.** There is no reason to doubt that both genetics and management practices can influence the chemical composition of the final product.

Dr. Kenneth Morgareidge in AMI's *Mushroom News*, Nov./58.

If **pre-packed fruit and vegetables** were to be sold the price must be comparable with those sold loose. The costs of washing or packing should be absorbed by the saving of staff wages, said Dr. K. H. Henksmeier of Germany at the Internation Pre-Pack Conference.

Self-Service Times, Nov./58.

While quality is important, **only 10% of people want and are prepared to pay for really top quality.** Self-service stores must go out to serve at least 90 per cent. of the population and this must mean selling several grades of the same goods, said Dr. G. Fois, of Italy, at the International Pre-pack Conference. *Self-Service Times*, Nov./58.

The juice of asparagus will kill all kinds of **nematodes,** workers at the University of Maryland have discovered. Even in a solution of 0.01 per cent., used as a soil drench, it has proved effective.

Grower, November 15/58.

To meet the special request of customers, McCall & Co. have now added **Boned Duck with Mushroom Sauce** to their other varieties of canned poultry already on the market. *Self-Service Times*, Nov./58.

In Memoriam:

THE LIMBURG TRAGEDY

Christmas Week, 1958, brought stark tragedy to Belgium's Mushroom Industry.

In the Limburg hills just south of the Dutch border, near Maastricht, are vast labyrinths of galleries excavated in past centuries for marlstone, and in those caves many people grow mushrooms. Suddenly, at 9.15 a.m. on the day before Christmas Eve, in the area of Sichen-Sussen-Bolder, several acres of ceiling caved in. It was at the peak of the last picking before the Holiday, and growers, workmen, women and children were buried.

Eighteen people are believed to have died, among them two of the largest and most efficient mushroom growers in Belgium, Gérard Kinet and Pierre Heijnen. Both were well known to visiting growers : Mr. Kinet was in the Dutch party which attended the Bournemouth Conference and later visited a number of farms in this country.

Members of the MGA throughout the world join in expressing the deepest sympathy with the relatives of Mr. Kinet, Mr. Heijnen and the others who lost their lives.

Great News for Mushroom Growers!

DITHANE DUST

TRADE MARK OF ROHM & HAAS COMPANY, PHILADELPHIA.

Controls deadly diseases

Dactylium (Cobweb) and **Mycogone (Bubble),** serious and prevalent mushroom diseases, are now being effectively controlled. P.B.I. Dithane Dust, containing 20% Dithane—the most widely used fungicidal material in the world—is increasingly employed for the successful control of these two deadly mushroom diseases, **and for the control of Verticillium and Red Geotrichum.** Safeguard your mushroom crops this season and every season with multi-purpose Dithane Dust.

And these Aerocides control Mushroom Flies.

BHC (Lindane) and Malathion.

Also from P.B.I., originators of the Aerocide Process, come two important Aerocides, providing the **most economical and efficient** control of mushroom flies. Ask for them by name—**P.B.I. Aerocide B.H.C. (Lindane) and Aerocide Malathion.** You can use them through the famous P.B.I. Aerocide Projector, Microsol Generator or Compressor/Spray Gun Outfit.

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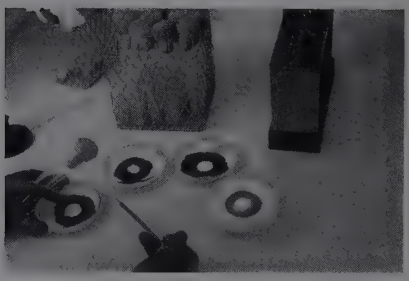
AP 49

RESEARCH—W. DARLINGTON & SONS LTD.

Some time ago we announced that we had extended our Research Laboratories to provide greater facilities for Dr. R. Klein's studies on mushroom spawn. Since then fundamental research has been carried out which will, we believe, contribute to future progress in the mushroom industry.



Mass Spore Germination

Meanwhile strains of spawn from world-wide sources, and, particularly, strains produced in our laboratories have been tested by growing on our own farm and on others in the Worthing area. From three of the most promising of these we are now producing experimental quantities of spawn.

The production of new strains and their proper testing is a lengthy business. After thirty years' experience in producing commercial spawn we feel that before new strains are put on the market they should be tested under as varied conditions as possible. Consequently we are enlisting (and have been promised) the co-operation of numerous growers in different parts of the country to carry out trials on a strictly statistical basis.

We are confident that among these strains and others which will be circulated in the near future, there will be some which will be regarded as a definite advance on anything at present available, and, moreover, with the co-operation of growers, we shall have comparative data about the conditions in which this superiority reveals itself.

Sterilisation in one of the large steam retorts

This approach to the problem is doubtless unusual, possibly unique, but such co-operation giving mutual confidence to growers and to ourselves should, we think, benefit the Industry as a whole.

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Capelle Straw can be broken down effectively by using **BRADFORD SPECIAL MIX.** The fine **SOLUBLE BLOOD POWDER** used in this activator has a solubility of 94% and is an ideal additive when dealing with this tough straw. Approx. cost of treating 1 ton is **8/-.**

A good spawn run does not always mean a good crop but the possibility is greatly improved if a **BLOOD BASED** Activator is used.

MRA No. 1 still available in limited quantities.

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1958 PUBLICITY FUND CONTRIBUTORS

Salesmen:—	£	s.	d.
Geo. Jackson & Co. Ltd., Smithfield Market, Birmingham	50	0	0
J. Stratton Ltd., Spitalfields Market, London, S.E.1.	5	5	0
T. J. Poupart Ltd., Covent Garden, London, W.C.	105	0	0
Francis Nicholls Ltd., Smithfield Market, Birmingham	157	10	0
Reuben Levy Ltd., 88 Spitalfields Market, London, S.E.1	10	14	8
C. W. Tooley & Son Ltd., Nottingham	2	2	0
Wm. Morgan & Co. Ltd., Custom House Street, Cardiff	10	10	0
Jackson & Lakin Ltd., Nottingham	9	3	7
R. E. Jenkinson Ltd., Covent Garden Market, W.C.2	105	0	0
C. Snowdon & Co. Ltd., Castlefolds Market, Sheffield	23	2	2
Dan Wuille & Co. Ltd., Covent Garden Market, W.C.2.	75	0	0
Ernest White Ltd., Kirkgate Market, Leeds	5	0	0
Ed. H. Lewis & Sons Ltd., Covent Garden Market, W.C.2	5	5	0
A. Williamson (19) Ltd., Smithfield Market, Birmingham	5	5	0
C. Snowdon & Co. Ltd., Castlefolds Market, Sheffield	24	19	2
P. & T. Fitzpatrick, 22 Queen Square, Liverpool 1	5	5	0
James Blackburn (Manchester) Ltd., Smithfield Market, Manchester	10	10	0
G. E. Leatherland Ltd., St. Andrew's Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne	58	7	10
Herbert Hitchcock & Son Ltd., Boro' Market, S.E.1	5	5	0
J. Collingridge Ltd., Covent Garden Market, W.C.2	25	0	0
William Hancock Ltd., 16 Humber Street, Hull	2	2	0

***Spawn Merchants:—**

Monlough Food Production Co. Ltd., Ballygowan, Belfast.
S. A. F. Sampson Ltd., Oving, Chichester, Sussex.
Pinkerton's Scottish Mushroom Laboratories, Millerston, Glasgow.
H. Mount & Sons Ltd., Littlebourne, Canterbury, Kent.
W. Darlington & Sons Ltd., Southcourt Road, Worthing, Sussex.
Geo. Monro Ltd., Hertford Road, Waltham Cross, Herts.
Godson & Mallard Ltd., Ferringham Lane, Ferring, Sussex.

*Amounts collected by spawn merchants are not for publication.

Sundriesmen:—	£	s.	d.
Shirley Organics Ltd., Vicarage Wharf, Battersea, S.W.11 (activators)	25	0	0
D. C. Bushell & Co. Ltd., Sandhurst, Camberley, Surrey (manure merchants)	10	10	0
Thos. Elliott Ltd., Eagle Mills, New Church Road, S.E.5 (manure, activators, sundries)	10	10	0
Stable Manures Ltd., Newmarket and Worthing	40	0	0
Arthur Coomer Ltd., Grove Road, Farlington, Portsmouth	10	10	0
T. A. Smith, of G. W. Smith & Son (Thorpe) Ltd., Thorpe, Wakefield.	2	2	0
F. Gough & Son Ltd., Fishergate, Norwich	10	10	0

ANY OFFERS ?

A Mr. B. S. Pawa, at present employed by a petroleum company in Borneo, is anxious to obtain employment on a mushroom farm in the United Kingdom in preparation for starting up on his own in Canada. Mr. Pawa is willing to work at the standard rate of pay (labouring) and hopes to stay in the U.K. for from twelve to eighteen months before leaving for Canada. If any member is willing to employ Mr. Pawa will he kindly communicate with the MGA Secretary. The Secretary will also be pleased to hear from anyone willing to employ a Portugese student for about three months—he will eventually be sailing for Brazil, to grow mushrooms.

SEEN THIS?

Spawning and Casing Machine

(*Patent granted in Britain, the U.S. and other countries*)

SPAWNING OPERATION

This machine, which created a great deal of interest at Bournemouth, is designed for mixing the spawn evenly with the compost. For this purpose the compost from the trays is tipped on to an endless belt which carries it towards the mixing device. On its way the spawn is distributed over the surface of the compost. In the mixing device the compost is caught by fingers, loosened, broken up and mixed, the grains of spawn being simultaneously evenly distributed throughout. At this point the compost can be watered with a built-in water sprayer. The empty trays are placed on a roller-conveyor under the belt, on which they roll towards the front of the machine where the spawned compost falls into the same trays.

Owing to the co-ordinated speeds of belt and roller-conveyor the compost is filled into the trays in a layer of uniform thickness. This layer is first packed by hand and subsequently compressed by a press to the volume prior to spawning. It is also possible to extend or condense the compost in the tray. After spawning the mycelium immediately starts to grow through the compost.

CASING OPERATION

The mixing device is disconnected. Two levelling blades are inserted above the belt. In this way the casing soil brought on to the belt by hand or mechanically is distributed in a layer of uniform though variable thickness over the surface of the continuously moving trays, regardless of irregularities in the compost. Favourable conditions are thereby created for uniform flushes.

The machine has been developed by the E. Hauser Champignon-Laboratorium, Gossau-Zurich, Switzerland, and is built to order in Britain.

What is the most quoted paper?

Why, the **Grower and Prepacker,** the horticultural paper that gives most reading and most value for your money, and neglects nobody.

Yet, it's only a shilling a week from your news-agent (firm order, please), or 50*s*. a year post free.

from

Mrs. McDonald, 49 Doughty Street, London, W.C.1

DUTCH GROWERS VISIT ENGLAND

What they saw—and thought

By Dr. H. C. Bels-Koning

It is well known to us Dutch, that in France one can travel according to the " itinéraire culinaire ", visiting famous restaurants and enjoying exquisite food of still more famous chefs all over the country. We Dutch growers did not know however that the like exists in Great Britain. On our trip we stumbled quite unexpectedly into this most exciting experience of having teas, lunches, dinners, and drinks with every grower we visited.

We went to England to learn and to widen our outlook on mushroom growing. In this respect we certainly got what we wanted. But on top we had all the exciting experience just mentioned. In some instances we were even invited into people's homes and so learned about the English way of life. To all concerned we say most heartily " Thank you ".

The English, of course, will want to know what struck us most. We envied you your market which prefers " buttons " and " cups " and even likes " flats ". In Holland " buttons " are 2nd quality and "flats" go with stems and pieces. We have to pick our mushrooms completely closed. It is a lot of work to gather a pound of the small stuff and we are losing weight—body weight—when we have to pick 36 hours without stopping, as well as weight of mushrooms!

Being used to the Dutch mushroom houses, we wondered about the simple English houses. We were impressed by the cleanliness and tidyness of the farms we visited. The Dutch air-conditioning not being fully

satisfactory yet and giving us many troubles and headaches we were inclined to envy you there too; but observing that so many English growers are trying out systems for forced ventilation, we concluded that your houses were also not quite ideal. We took home more than one good idea. We were disappointed not to find " the one good method " of composting ". Like in Holland—and as we learned from Professor Kneebone from the U.S.A.—the English growers use a great variety of methods; long or short outside composting, many turns or just one or two, boosting or not boosting, etc. Wetting the fresh strawy manure brings the same problem in England as it does in Holland. We learned that the English are not afraid to pass their fresh compost 2-3 times through the turning machine to get more water in. Our fear of making the straw too short seems not well founded.

The annual conferences are a wonderful achievement of the British growers. We were lucky to be able to attend one. We came to Bournemouth directly from Holland; the Conference was our " adaptation period ". We enjoyed it very much, but would have got still more out of it had it been at the end of our trip. In that case we would have known several growers personally and would have been more familiar with the language.

We thank the English mushroom growers again for their heart warming hospitality. Any one who wants to visit us may be sure of an equally warm welcome. We will gladly show you around.

SIR JAMES TURNER HONOURED

Sir James Turner, President of the NFU since 1946, was created a Baron in this year's Honours List.

Sir James, aged 50, a B.Sc.(Agric.) of Leeds University and a former county rugby player for both Yorkshire and Derbyshire, became Chairman of the Nottinghamshire County Branch of the NFU in 1937, whilst still under the age of 30 and was the youngest ever NFU President when elected to that office in 1945 at the age of 37. He farms 350 acres in Yorkshire and resides, with his family, in Herts.

A MOST IMPORTANT CORRECTION

In Bulletin No. 103 (July, 1958) in the article " Pig Manure as a Substitute for Horse Manure in Mushroom Growing " by C. Riber Rasmussen, under Table 3 on page 280 the figure of 15 kilos of superphosphate and 4 kilos of gypsum were given as part of the " normal " inorganic supplements per ton of fresh manure. **These figures should have read 4 kilos superphosphate and 15 kilos gypsum.** Will members please make the necessary corrections.

The article concerned has also been purchased by a large number of growers as a separate leaflet. The corrections should be made on page 3 of this leaflet. Copies of the leaflet are available from the MGA office at 3/- each.

The Editor wishes to convey his apologies to Mr. Rasmussen.

You can make better compost more quickly and reliably-with

ADCO 'M'

SPECIAL MUSHROOM COMPOST ACTIVATOR GIVES HIGHER FERMENTATION TEMPERATURES, AND A FIRST CLASS COMPOST THAT ASSISTS THE SPAWN RUN

MANY ADVANTAGES are gained by using Adco "M" as an activator in composting. Chief among them is the higher temperature attained both in the compost heap and in the beds during the peak heating process. Look at the results that follow from these higher temperatures.

First of all, fermentation goes ahead at a faster rate. Composting takes less time and the finished product is ready earlier.

Secondly, you have greater assurance that your crop will be free of pests and disease. The higher temperature either kills off the pests inside the heap or drives them to the surface, where they can be dealt with by insecticides. High temperatures during fermentation are particularly vital in preventing disease such as Vert-de-gris, of which there is special danger when composting during the winter months.

More nourishment

If you use Racing Stable manure, or other manure in which excess straw is present, the use of Adco "M" is strongly advised. The fermentation of this type of manure takes place more rapidly and effectively when Adco "M" is added. You get a more thorough breakdown of the strawy material, which then becomes available as food for the growing spawn. So your compost provides more nourishment for the mushrooms, and you get a bigger crop.

Better spawn run

Adco "M" produces a good quality compost of even texture. It provides an ideal medium for spawn run and helps to avoid greasy conditions, lack of aeration, and over wet compost – all of which delay mycelium growth. The spawn is able to make more rapid use of the food provided. It establishes itself more quickly and this is again a great help in preventing diseases and weed fungi. The faster the spawn grows and fills the compost the less likelihood is there of disease and weed fungi becoming serious competitors. A quick spawn growth also gives a quicker ultimate production.

You can have freedom from uncertainty in the composting process – by using Adco "M". It will pay you hands down. Adco "M" is specially formulated as a result of years of experiment, for the specific purpose of making mushroom compost. It can be used for composting with straw alone, if you wish. Or it can be used to compensate for variations in the quality and texture of your manure supply. Adco "M" provides the way to better mushroom compost every time.

Post this coupon for full details

Adco Limited, Harpenden, Herts

Please send me your leaflet giving full details of Adco "M".

NAME

ADDRESS .....

COPENHAGEN 1959

How much will it cost ?

Quite a number of MGA members have already indicated that they are interested in attending the Fourth International Mushroom Congress at Copenhagen next July.

Naturally enough the cost of the trip is a matter for serious consideration but members will do well to realise that this is a *bona fide* business trip and allowable for income tax purposes.

For those who may wish to make the journey by air, B.E.A. Viscount makes the trip in 3½ hours and the return tourist fare is £43 4s., with a 10% reduction for a group of 15 or more.

Whilst no decision has yet been reached on the mode of travel it seems likely that the main party will go be train and boat via Liverpool Street-Harwich-Esbjerg to Copenhagen the 2nd class return fare for which is £20 (£27 1st class) plus cabin charges varying from 10/6d. to £2 2s., plus meals on board, breakfast (5/-) lunch (7/6) dinner 8/6d. Some members have already decided to take their cars, average size car £7 each way on the boat. Car travellers will save rail fares amounting to about £5 6s. each person. Party travel on rail and/or boat qualifies for a 10% reduction.

Probably a start will be made on Thursday, 16th July, returning Monday, 27th July. A reasonably good hotel in Copenhagen costs 20/- to 30/- per night plus meals, 5/- breakfast, 10/- to 12/- lunch and dinner, plus 15% plus drinks. Travelling by the sea route the total all-in cost per head should work out at around £75, excluding drinks and entertainment of course, for the 11 days, plus conference fees. **If you are interested in going let the MGA Secretary know as soon as possible.**

A JANUARY CALYPSO

To stop, to turn, to look,—'tis oft worthwile !
To '58, we binoculars raise, Calypso-style.
A year to forget—of holiday skies in tears :
Of rising costs ; May-day prices lowest for years.
Yet, wiping our lens and lifting our gaze
See mushroom men amarch beyond the haze ;
As growers' scares lessened housewives' wants,
Publicising Brown Disease got a kick in the pants.
Our MGA Bulletin passed its Hundredth Edition ;
Then, three young couples set off on a mission
To that U.S. Short Course,—had "time of their life"
Ere returning to Yaxley, Blackpool and Fife.
Now America boosts the old hay wagon,
The pigs' mollycoddled in sweet Copenhagen ;
Since hay is grass, and pigs eat swill
The outlooks bright for raw material ;
The same applies in town and city
To Mush' demand—Thanks ! Publicity.
We stopped, turned, looked—'twas well worthwhile,
So, binoculars cased, About Turn ! Calypso-style.

F.P.

The CULVERWELL *Manure Turner*

FOR MUSHROOM GROWERS

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PETROL *or* ELECTRIC

●

EXTREMELY MOBILE

●

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Ex Works

The small machine with the BIG turnover

Bruises and aerates–does not shred. CAN BE USED FOR ALL TURNINGS. 3 men handle 25/50 tons per day. Waters as it turns. Stacks up to 5 feet. By using the CULVERWELL MANURE TURNER throughout the whole composting process, the work is reduced to the minimum, time taken is shorter with improved results.

Will pass through a door 2' 10" × 5' 10" with the detachable wheels removed

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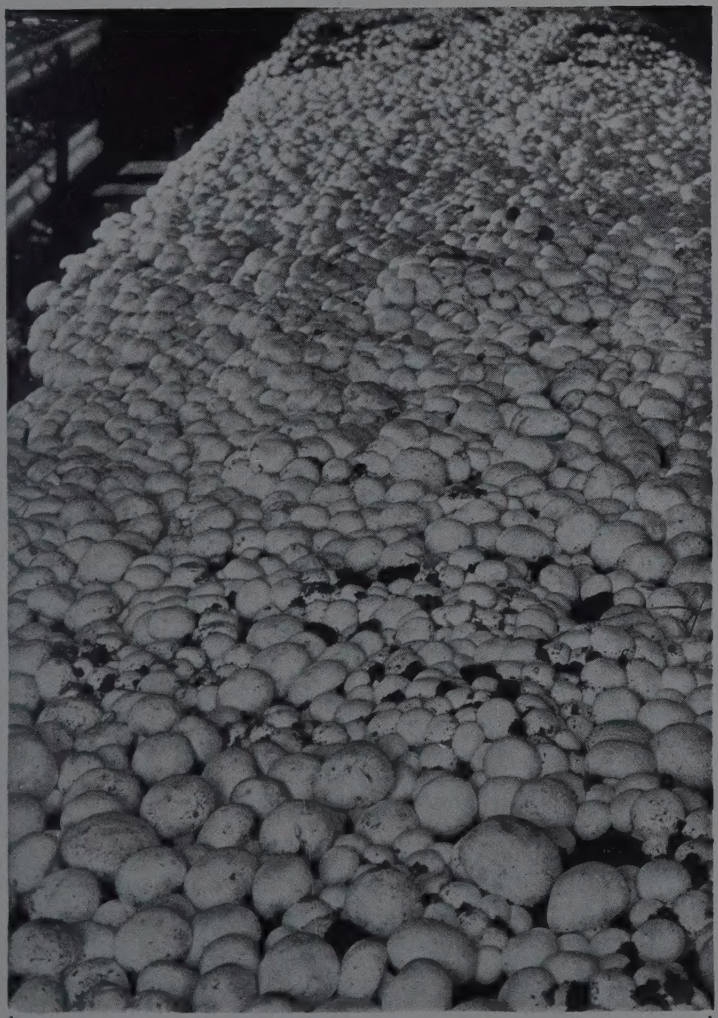

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PURE CULTURE SPAWN

SMALL ADVERTISEMENTS 4d. a word

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PURE DRIED GROUND POULTRY MANURE. This pure, natural organic is regularly used by prominent mushroom growing firms. It represents an invaluable *organic* activator for stable manure. Finely and evenly ground, it is convenient and clean to handle and being packed in ½ cwt. sacks, the weight you receive is *guaranteed.* Sample and prices (which vary according to the distance for carriage from our Works) on application. Sole Producers:—THE HAMPSHIRE GUANO CO. LTD., SOBERTON, SOUTHAMPTON. (Est. 1937). Manufacturers of " Gunos " (Regd.) Brand Fertilisers.

PORTABLE BOILERS for Peak Heating and/or Soil Sterilizing, with equipment to suit users. REED BROS. (Engineering) LTD., Replant Works, Woolwich Industrial Estate, London, S.E. 18.

CHALK AND CARBONATE OF LIME. Best quality Ground Chalk and Derbyshire Limestone supplied in bags; also broken chalk and limestone. DERBY-SHIRE STONE LIMITED, Matlock. Telephone: 741.

FOR SALE. Modern Tray Mushroom Farm, 7,500 sq. ft. West Sussex. Modern Bungalow with two acres of land. Prefer to sell but would consider renting Box 28.

REGULAR SUPPLIES of graded mushrooms required. Please write for Managing director to call. Wray & Pease Ltd., Castlefolds Market, Sheffield 1.

NOTTINGHAM Company require mushrooms urgently. Write for managing director to visit you. Box No. 5.

CULVERWELL Manure Turner for sale. To be seen by arrangement (ring Gillingham 5213) at Fort Darland, Gillingham, Kent. Offers to E. CLARKE WILLIAMS, Midland Bank Chambers, Herne Bay, Kent.

MUSHROOM Casing Chalk from COOPERS, Lime and Chalk Producers, Canterbury, contains no weeds, fungus or inherent disease.

FRESH STABLE MANURE, straight from Racing Establishments and Studs in the North—reasonable prices per ton. PETER CHISMAN, Woodside, Leyburn, N. Yorks. Tel. Leyburn 2263.

FOR SALE : Dodman Verticle cross-tune boiler, little used: 11′ × 6′, 100 lb. pressure: spare bars and 20′ chimney. TIMMS, 90 Chesterton Lane, Cirencester. Tel. Ciren. 801.

A
Happy New Year
TO ALL

and to the many Growers using Shirley Products it will undoubtedly be a more prosperous one

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